Setting up of hospital and medical college at Bhuj

1942. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister on his visit to Bhuj in Gujarat after the devastating earthquake in the State had announced Rs. 100 crore grant for setting-up of a world class hospital and medical college at Bhuj to be completed by 26th January, 2003;

(b) if so, the progress made in this respect, so far;

(c) whether Government have any proposal for mobile hospitals in Kutch district of Gujarat, particularly in the remote areas of the district; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, together with financial allocation made by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister Office has informed that the Prime Minister had announced the reconstruction of the District Hospital at Bhuj, which was completely devastated in the Earthquake. This was in response to the request of the State Government. The progress of the construction so far is as per schedule.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Vaccine for AIDS

1943. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Chemical Laboratory at Pune has developed an effective vaccine for AIDS;

(b) if so, the complete details thereof;

(c) whether Government have obtained Indian and International patent for the vaccine; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, Scientists from National Chemical Laboratory, Pune have isolated a biologically derived molecule from an alkalothermophilic Bacillus species that inhibits HIV-1 Protease, the enzyme responsible for the multiplication of the AIDS causing virus. It is not a vaccine but it is an inhibitor. This molecule is isolated from a robust microbe that thrives at high temperatures and alkaline conditions.

The inhibitor isolated has an amino acid sequence that shows no similarity to existing peptidic inhibitors and represents an exciting new class of inhibitors. CSIR has filed Indian and Foreign Patent Applications on this invention.

Treatment for poor patients in Indraprastha Apollo Hospital

1944. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that poor patients are entitled to have treatment in the Indraprastha Apollo Hospital at par with those who pay for their medical expenses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering the formation of a Commission to ensure that poor patients are provided medical facilities as per the guidelines of the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.